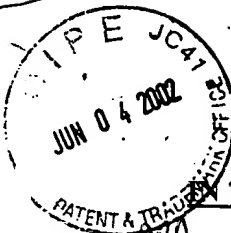


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Attorney's Docket 115699 - 23

#12/c  
Jules  
6/17/02



**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** Forbes **Examiner:** Jules, F.F.  
**Serial No:** 09/705,056 **Art Unit:** 3617  
**Title :** DROPPED DECK CENTER BEAM RAIL ROAD CAR  
**Filed:** 2 November 2000 **Date:** 24 May 2002

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This letter is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action of February 25, 2002, for which a response is due May 25, 2002. This response reduces the number of pending claims. **THIS RESPONSE IS ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTICE OF APPEAL AND THE FEE THEREFOR.**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

*Amel*  
Please amend claims 1, 15, 20, 22 and 29.  
Please amend the claims as follows:

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- C1*
2. (Amended) The center beam rail road car of claim ~~23~~ wherein said body has a bunk defined between said deck structure and said top truss, said bunk having a loading height measured between said medial decking portion and said top truss that is at least 165 inches.
- C2*
3. (Amended) The center beam rail road car of claim ~~23~~, wherein:  
said web assembly includes an array of posts extending upwardly from said main sill and has an upper region adjacent to said top truss and a lower region adjacent to said decking structure;  
said upper region of said web assembly has at least one longitudinally extending skirt against which lading can be placed.
4. (Amended) The center beam rail road car of claim ~~23~~, wherein:  
said car has a center sill, said deck structure being supported thereby;